

JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM

Enhancing Community Safety Effectively and Economically

Handout to accompany presentation on Education in Residential Settings

Symposium: Residential Care that Reduces Recidivism

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Points for policy makers, administrators and advocates:

- Children have statutory rights to education services of comparable quality to those found in the public schools.
- Children enmeshed in the Juvenile Justice System on average, perform four years below their expected age on norm-referenced academic assessments.
- The percentage of children with disabling conditions that entitle them to special education services is three to five times the prevalence in the public school.
- Children do not want to fail. They fail in part because we haven't figured out how to best meet their needs.
- When given the opportunity to develop academic skills in a supportive, nurturing environment, nearly all children will seize the opportunity become more skillful.
- Early in children's school careers, we know who is likely to be vulnerable to juvenile justice system involvement.
- Literacy is one of the best predictors of positive adult outcomes in areas such as income, employment, homelessness, health, and incarceration.
- Higher levels of high school completion within states are associated with lower crime rates.
- Residential programs that are successful in boosting student achievement ensure that
 - Students learn new skills in a safe environment
 - There are high levels of student engagement and opportunities to respond to instructional materials and activities
 - There are multiple opportunities for students to achieve milestones, earn certificates, and earn diplomas

Sources:

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